

"some miracle happens and we get money next year that we don't have now," as Chairman McKEON put it earlier this month. As a result of this line of thinking, this legislation avoids making many tough choices at the expense of our military readiness. It is my hope that many of my objections to this legislation will be resolved in Conference with the Senate and that I will be able to support its final passage.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE OF MAYOR PRADEL OF  
NAPERVILLE

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 28, 2014*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant from the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, Mayor A. George Pradel of Naperville. Mayor Pradel was recently presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber presents this award annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Naperville community through their business, service, and philanthropy.

As a resident of the city of Naperville since 1939, Mayor Pradel has a long legacy of service to the city and our country. He enlisted in the Marines in 1956 and served until 1959, at which point he joined the Naperville police force until 1995. Shortly after retiring from the Police Department, Mr. Pradel was elected mayor and has since become the longest serving mayor in Naperville history.

During his tenure as mayor, Mr. Pradel has been an exemplary leader and public servant. Nicki Anderson, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce said it best when she reflected, in presenting him with the Lifetime Achievement Award, "Mayor Pradel's love and energy for our community has never been in short supply. His vision and passion has changed our community for the better and his legacy of service before self could be our city motto. We can never fully honor all of his contributions to our community and Chamber, but we will celebrate, toast and recognize him at this community event."

Mayor Pradel has represented his community well and though his term ends in 2015, he will undoubtedly play an important role in a number of development and community projects which will continue to shape Naperville for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mayor Pradel for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring his many years of selfless service, and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

99TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 28, 2014*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Azerbaijan and all Az-

erbajani-Americans on the 96th anniversary of Azerbaijan's Republic Day. On this day, May 28, in 1918, Azerbaijan received its independence and formally created the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

Over the past 23 years, Azerbaijan has grown to become a close and trusted ally of the United States in a geopolitically challenging region of the world. Situated along the Caspian Sea, with Iran on its southern border and Russia on its northern border, Azerbaijan was the first country in the region to open Caspian Sea energy resources to U.S. and European countries, playing a vital role in European energy security. This role is even more important today with tensions rising with Russia. A steadfast friend and supporter of Israel, Azerbaijan plays a vital role in Israeli energy security, providing almost 40 percent of all crude oil supplies to our closest ally in the Middle East.

Azerbaijan is a secular country, with a predominantly Muslim population, that guarantees religious freedom for all. Azerbaijan has been home for centuries to vibrant Jewish and Christian communities, acting as a role model for religious coexistence and freedom.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Azerbaijan has been a partner in the United States' efforts towards freedom around the globe. Azerbaijan was the first Muslim country to send troops to Iraq and has played an active role in NATO's efforts in Afghanistan, committing troops, resources and allowing use of their airspace and airports.

Although the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was first established in 1918, this initial independence was short-lived as the Soviet Union led a bitter and bloody takeover of the country in 1920. In 1991, as the Soviet Union was crumbling, Azerbaijan reestablished its independence and looked Westward to the United States for friendship and guidance.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Azerbaijan on this day. I look forward to working with Azerbaijan as our nations continue to work together and build a lasting and fruitful bond.

HONORING NANCY CANAVAN  
HESLOP

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 28, 2014*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor my good friend, Nancy Canavan Heslop. Her work chronicling the amazing story of her father, Naval and Marine corps aviator Colonel Desmond ("Des") E. Canavan, and his work with test piloting the remarkable military cargo aircraft, the Budd RB-1 Conestoga has been nothing short of incredible. One of her articles was recently published in American Aviation Historical Society Journal, under the title "A Story of the Budd RB-1 Conestoga."

Nancy's father, Colonel Canavan was a test pilot for many years, and also showed unparalleled courage while serving his country as a pilot during the Second World War. He was the first Marine Corps pilot to fly both America's first helicopter (Sikorsky HNS-1, BuNo 39034, March 30, 1944, and solo in BuNo 39046, November 2, 1944) and jet (Bell YP-

59-A, BuNo 10002, July 18, 1944). He was stationed at the testing facility at NAS Patuxent River, MD, where he served as the test pilot for the Budd RB-1.

Mrs. Heslop's article explains how the Budd RB-1 was plagued with many problems, and the many crashes it suffered during testing due to mechanical failures. Colonel Canavan himself was injured in one such crash. As a consequence of its poor testing, the Budd RB-1 never saw service in a combat theater during the war. However, its design led to numerous innovations that were later used in many other cargo planes.

Out of the 17 Budd RB-1s that were delivered to the Navy, only one has survived. It currently is at Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona, awaiting restoration.

My friend Nancy Canavan Heslop is an amazing woman, and has worked tirelessly on writing the story of the life of her father. She has written *Letters From Des: The Life of a Marine Corps Naval Aviator and Test Pilot* and is currently writing *Letters From Des: Korea*. Nancy is a truly outstanding woman; aside from her recent success she has also been published in multiple local journals. In closing, I am thrilled to congratulate my friend on her great accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 28, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,490,453,119,908.90. We've added \$6,863,576,070,995.90 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING RODGER C. COLLINS

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 28, 2014*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in grateful recognition of the hard work and community service of Rodger C. Collins. Mr. Collins has served the greater good of my constituency, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, by advocating for the economic success of both families and businesses. He is a founding member of the Economic Self-Sufficiency (ES) Program. This program assists low-income families so that they may have the opportunity to leave or avoid the welfare system. ES focuses on education as the primary way to prepare low-income families to be competitive in today's workforce and has successfully graduated over 263 families with an average income of \$39,633.

Mr. Collins served the community through the Bucks County Opportunity Council, the Economic Development Advisory Board of Bucks County, the Intelligencer Editorial